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[REDACTED]

4 January 1982

DCI Briefing Note

Internal Situation in Iran

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The Khomeini regime, seriously challenged this summer, apparently has thwarted its domestic opponents led by the Islamic Socialist Mujahedin. [REDACTED]

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Since June, the regime has executed at least 2,000 suspected opponents, jailed thousands, and forced those not killed or jailed into hiding. Assassination of regime officials and pitched street battles--daily incidents this summer--have all but stopped. Both failed to produce the momentum with which the Mujahedin hoped to oust the regime, and the group reportedly is now reassessing its strategy.

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The group has been hurt and forced into dormancy before, only to reemerge later. At this point, its organizational structure appears in disarray. Its leader, Massoud Rajavi, still in Paris, reportedly has lost control and the organization has split. One faction apparently has joined with the pro-Moscow Communist Tudeh party. [REDACTED]

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Other regime opponents in Tehran remain cowed, hoping probably in vain that someone else will step in to lead the opposition. The military continues preoccupied with the war. Iran's ethnic minorities are quiescent or have been placed on the defensive, including the Kurds, Iran's most rebellious minority. [REDACTED]

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Despite continuing popular disaffection, the government is consolidating its control, at least for the short term. The leadership now feels secure enough to press in the Majles issues which are potentially divisive within the ranks of the fundamentalists themselves--land reform, for example, which conservative clerics oppose. [REDACTED]

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